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Panther Sports News

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July 30, 1984
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Two Illinois prep athletes and a junior college transfer have signed baseball scholarships to attend Eastern Illinois University, head coach Tom McDevitt announced.

The three are pitchers Brian Corn from Elgin High School and Eric Hillman of Homewood-Flossmoor HS, and Lincolnland CC transfer Kendall Snyder, a third baseman from Raymond, IL.

Corn, a 5-9, 160 righthander, had a 10-0 record for Elgin HS this past spring striking out 114 and walking only 33 in 70 innings. His earned run average was 1.16.

In legion ball last summer he was 13-0 with a 2.55 ERA, 106 strikeouts and 45 walks in 82 innings.

"Brian is the best righthanded high school pitcher I saw this spring. He knows how to win, and his fastball is close to being an average major league fast ball right now . . . he's also got good breaking stuff to go with it," said McDevitt.

Corn was also chosen to represent Illinois in the annual Illinois-Michigan prep all-star game and pitched for the north team in this summer's state all-star game.

Hillman is a 6-8, 200 lefty who had a 2-3 record and 3.67 ERA at Homewood-Flossmoor. He struck out 48 in 34 innings. "Eric has been bothered by arm trouble but it's nothing serious. I think he's got a great future ahead of him," McDevitt said.

"He's got a lot of coordination, poise and agility and at 6-8 his fast ball is going to be hard to hit as he's a foot or two closer to home plate when he releases the ball."

Snyder, 6-3, 190 first baseman, hit .308 with eight homers in 1983 and .289 with five homers this past spring. He's currently playing for Springfield in the Central Illinois Collegiate League and "the last I heard he was hitting about .300 with eight homers," says McDevitt.

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"Although he's played first base, I plan to shift him to third. He's got excellent hands, a decent arm and lots of agility."

Eastern was 19-11 this past spring, the 14th straight season it has been at .500 or above.